

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-14: (cancelled)

15. (new) A yarn for strands of an artificial turf ground cover, including a tape filament having a core layer and two outer layers of a different material than the core layer and co-extruded with the core layer, each on one of two opposite sides of the core layer, wherein the core layer contains polyester and/or polyolefin material, the outer layers contain high-density polyethylene, and the material of the tape filament has been stretched in longitudinal direction at a stretching ratio of 1:3 - 1:6.

16. (new) A yarn according to claim 15, wherein the core layer contains polyethylene terephthalate or a polyolefin material from a group consisting of polypropylene, a mixture of polypropylene and rubber, a block copolymer of polypropylene and polyethylene and linear low density polypropylene.

17. (new) A yarn according to claim 15, wherein the aggregated thickness of the outer layers is at most 50% of the thickness of the yarn.

18. (new) A yarn according to claim 15, wherein the thickness of each of the outer layers is less than 50 µm and preferably less than 20 µm.

19. (new) A yarn according to claim 15, the yarn being of a monofilament tape construction.

20. (new) A yarn according to claim 15, wherein the tape filament includes longitudinally extending grooves extending through at least one of the outer layers to the core layer.

21. (new) A yarn according to claim 20, wherein the grooves are arranged pairwise diametrically opposite of each other in opposite sides of the tape filament.

22. (new) A yarn according to claim 20, wherein the grooves have bottom portions extending into the core layer.

23. (new) An artificial turf ground cover including a substrate sheet and strands fastened to the substrate sheet and projecting upwardly from the substrate sheet, wherein

- the strands are formed of a yarn including a tape filament having a core layer and two outer layers of a different material than the core layer and co-extruded with the core layer, each on one of two opposite sides of the core layer,

- the core layer contains polyester and/or polyolefin material,
- the outer layers contain high-density polyethylene, and
- the material of the tape filament has been stretched in longitudinal direction.

24. (new) A ground cover according to claim 23, wherein bundles of the strands are cleaved apart portions of at least one tape filament, projecting from a common tape filament portion in an area where the strands are fastened, wherein the common tape filament portion has longitudinally extending grooves extending through at least one of the outer layers to the core layer.

25. (new) A playing field including a ground layer and an artificial turf ground cover including a substrate sheet and strands fastened to the substrate sheet and projecting upwardly from the substrate sheet, wherein

- the strands are formed of a yarn including a tape filament having a core layer and two outer layers of a different material than the core layer and co-extruded with the core layer, each on one of two opposite sides of the core layer,

- the core layer contains polyester and/or polyolefin material,
- the outer layers contain high-density polyethylene, and
- the material of the tape filament has been stretched in longitudinal direction,

the turf ground cover covering the ground layer.

26. (new) A method for producing a yarn for forming strands of an artificial turf ground cover, including

- extruding a core layer of at least polyester or polyolefin material,
- extruding outer layers containing high density polyethylene,
- bringing the layers in a multilayer configuration with the core layer between two of said outer layers,
- stretching the material of the multilayer configuration in longitudinal direction at a stretching ratio of 1:3 - 1:6.

27. (new) A method according to claim 26, wherein the extruding of said core layer and said outer layers and the bringing of said layers in said configuration is carried out simultaneously by co-extruding said layers.

28. (new) A ground cover according to claim 22, wherein the material of the tape filament has been stretched in longitudinal direction at a stretching ratio of 1:3 - 1:6.

29. (new) A yarn for strands of an artificial turf ground cover, including a tape filament having a flat cross-section, one side of the tape filament having a color and/or tint different from the color and/or tint of the other side.

30. (new) An artificial turf ground cover including a substrate sheet and strands fastened to the substrate sheet and projecting upwardly from the substrate sheet, wherein the strands are formed of a yarn including a tape filament having a flat cross-section, one side of the tape filament having a color and/or tint different from the color and/or tint of the other side.